

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCCT-01 NIC-01 /070 W
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R 091629Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 768

INFO AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 208

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION -- TO RUN OR
NOT TO RUN

1. SPOKESMEN FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP), THE ALLIANCE, PARTY, UNIONIST PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND (FAULKNERITE) HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES CONTESTING FORTHCOMING ELECTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. THESE THREE PARTIES ARE NOT RPT NOT NOT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT LEADERS ARE CONFERRING WITH EACH OTHER ON ELECTION STRATEGY. ONE ISSUE IS DEMAND FOR CLARIFICATION OF HMG POLICY SHOULD EXPECTED LOYALIST MAJORITY AT CONVENTION REFUSE TO AGREE TO POWER SHARING.

2. ELECTION BOYCOTT BY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITY AND TWO MODERATE PARTIES COULD END BY INVALIDATING ELECTION. IT COULD ALSO END IN ABANDONING NON-LOYALIST FIELD TO REPUBLICANS. THERE RECENT INDICATIONS THAT OFFICIAL AND PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, PERHAPS UNDER BENNER NEW ORGANIZATIONS, INTEND CONTEST CONVENTION ELECTION. IT SIGNIFICANT RANK AND FILE MEMBERS MODERATE PARTIES CONTINUE INSIST PARTIES WILL
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CONTEST ELECTION.

3. PARADOXICALLY MODERATE OBJECTIONS BEING VOICED SIMULTANEOUSLY
WITH HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT CONVENTION COULD SOMEHOW SUCCEED.
NORTHER BELFAST BRANCH SDLP HAS RAISED AS SUBJECT PARTY
DEBATE MOTION TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE IRISH DIMENSION AS CAMPAIGN
ISSUE. OFFICIAL UNIONIST JOHN TAYLOR IN SPEECH DECEMBER 2
SAID THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN UUUC AND SDLP.

4. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE NEW RESOLUTION PART HMG DEMONSTRATED
BY POST-BIRMINGHAM ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION AND PARALLEL
TOUGHENING ATTITUDE IN DUBLIN ON TERRORISM MAKE HARD-LINE
UNIONISTS FEEL LESS ISOLATED HENCE LESS INTRANSIGENT ON
POWER-SHARING. UUUC LEADERS SUCH AS PAISLEY AND CRAIG ARE
HOWEVER FAR FROM READY ACCEPT WHAT THEY SEE AS "IMPOSED
CONDITIONS" ON FORM POWER-SHARING TO APPEAR IN NEW CONSTITUTION.
SPICER

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